

Applicant: Larry W. Smith
Serial No. 10/662,203
Filed: 09/12/2003
Attorney Docket No. 1065

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending herein.

Claims 1-26 are rejected.

Claims 1, 13, 18 and 22 are currently amended.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1, 2, 9 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Terry (US 6,516,877).

It is respectfully submitted that Terry fails to anticipate claims 1, 2, 9 and 22, as will be hereinafter set forth.

Terry fails to disclose invention of claims 1, 2 and 9

It is respectfully submitted that Terry fails to anticipate amended claim 1, and claims 2 and 9 as dependent therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), since Terry fails to disclose a multi-unit centralizer comprising “a centralizer hub including a plurality of hub subunits...an elongated flange groove *having at least one open end* provided in each of said plurality of hub subunits; and at least one spacer lug slidably and removably engaging each of said plurality of hub subunits *by inserting said at least one spacer lug into said at least one open end and sliding said at least one spacer lug in said flange groove*”, as set forth in amended claim 1 and defined by claims 2 and 9 as dependent therefrom.

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Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of amended claim 1, and claims 2 and 9 as dependent therefrom, is respectfully submitted.

Terry fails to disclose invention of claim 22

It is respectfully submitted that Terry fails to anticipate amended claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) since Terry fails to disclose a method comprising “providing a multi-unit centralizer comprising a centralizer hub having a plurality of hub subunits...each having a longitudinal axis; providing [a] plurality of spacer lugs on said centralizer hub *by sliding at least one of said plurality of spacer lugs on each of said plurality of hub subunits along said longitudinal axis...*”, as set forth in amended claim 22.

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of amended claim 22 is respectfully submitted.

Claims 1, 2, 9, 13, 14, 17 and 22-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mundt (US 3,292,708).

It is respectfully submitted that Mundt fails to anticipate claims 1, 2, 9, 13, 14, 17 and 22-26, as will be hereinafter set forth.

Mundt fails to disclose invention of claims 1, 2 and 9

It is respectfully submitted that Mundt fails to anticipate amended claim 1, and claims 2 and 9 as dependent from amended claim 1, under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), since Mundt fails to disclose a multi-

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unit centralizer comprising “a centralizer hub including a plurality of hub subunits...an elongated flange groove *having at least one open end* provided in each of said plurality of hub subunits; and at least one spacer lug slidably and removably engaging each of said plurality of hub subunits *by inserting said at least one spacer lug into said at least one open end and sliding said at least one spacer lug in said flange groove*”, as set forth in amended claim 1 and defined by claims 2 and 9 as dependent therefrom.

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 2 and 9 is respectfully submitted.

Mundt fails to disclose invention of claims 13, 14 and 17

It is respectfully submitted that Mundt fails to anticipate amended claim 13, and therefore, claims 14 and 17 as dependent therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), since Mundt fails to disclose a multi-unit centralizer comprising “an elongated centralizer hub having a longitudinal axis and including a plurality of hub subunits for removably engaging each other; a flange groove provided in each of said plurality of hub subunits...each of [a] plurality of spacer lugs having an attachment edge capable of engaging said centralizer hub *by sliding said attachment edge in said flange groove in a direction parallel to said longitudinal axis*”, as set forth in amended claim 13 and defined by claims 14 and 17 as dependent therefrom.

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of amended claim 13, and claims 14 and 17 as dependent therefrom, is respectfully solicited.

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Mundt fails to disclose invention of claims 22-26

It is respectfully submitted that Mundt fails to anticipate amended claim 22, and claims 23-26 as dependent from amended claim 22, under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) since Mundt fails to disclose a method comprising “providing a multi-unit centralizer comprising a centralizer hub having a plurality of hub subunits...each having a longitudinal axis; providing [a] plurality of spacer lugs on said centralizer hub *by sliding at least one of said plurality of spacer lugs on each of said plurality of hub subunits along said longitudinal axis...*”, as set forth in amended claim 22 and defined by claims 23-26 as dependent therefrom.

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of amended claim 22, and claims 23-26 as dependent therefrom, is respectfully submitted.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 3-8, 10-12, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Terry in view of Evans (US 3,963,075).

It is respectfully submitted that Terry in view of Evans fails to render claims 3-8, 10-12, 18 and 19 obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), since Terry in view of Evans fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of the claims, as will be hereinafter set forth.

Terry in view of Evans fails to teach invention of claims 3-8 and 10-12

As claims 3-8 and 10-12 depend from amended claim 1, and therefore, incorporate all of the

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limitations of amended claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Terry in view of Evans fails to teach or suggest a multi-unit centralizer comprising “a centralizer hub including a plurality of hub subunits...an elongated flange groove *having at least one open end* provided in each of said plurality of hub subunits; and at least one spacer lug slidably and removably engaging each of said plurality of hub subunits *by inserting said at least one spacer lug into said at least one open end and sliding said at least one spacer lug in said flange groove*”, as set forth in amended claim 1, and therefore, defined by claims 3-8 and 10-12 as dependent therefrom.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Terry in view of Evans fails to render claims 3-8 and 10-12, as dependent from amended claim 1, obvious within the contemplation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claims 3-8 and 10-12 is respectfully submitted.

Terry in view of Evans fails to teach invention of claims 18 and 19

It respectfully submitted that Terry in view of Evans fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of amended claim 18, and claim 19 as dependent therefrom, since Terry in view of Evans fails to teach or suggest a multi-unit centralizer comprising “a centralizer hub including a plurality of hub subunits...a flange groove having at least one open end provided in each of said plurality of hub subunits; a plurality of spacer lugs slidably and removably engaging said centralizer hub *by insertion in said at least one open end of said flange groove...*”, as set forth in amended claim 18, and therefore, defined by claim 19 as dependent from amended claim 18.

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Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Terry in view of Evans fails to render amended claim 18, and claim 19 as dependent from amended claim 18, obvious within the contemplation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claims 18 and 19 is respectfully submitted.

Claims 13, 14, 17 and 23-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Terry in view of Tighe (US 4,076,084).

It is respectfully submitted that Terry in view of Tighe fails to render claims 13, 14, 17 and 23-26 obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as will be hereinafter set forth.

Terry in view of Tighe fails to teach invention of claims 13, 14 and 17

It is respectfully submitted that Terry in view of Tighe fails to teach or suggest a multi-unit centralizer comprising “an elongated centralizer hub having a longitudinal axis and including a plurality of hub subunits for removably engaging each other; a flange groove provided in each of said plurality of hub subunits...each of [a] plurality of spacer lugs having an attachment edge capable of engaging said centralizer hub *by sliding said attachment edge in said flange groove in a direction parallel to said longitudinal axis*”, as set forth in amended claim 13 and defined by claims 14 and 17 as dependent therefrom.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Terry in view of Tighe fails to render claims 13, 14 and 17 obvious within the contemplation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Reconsideration and allowance

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of amended claim 13, and claims 14 and 17 as dependent therefrom, is respectfully solicited.

Terry in view of Tighe fails to teach invention of claims 23-26

As claims 23-26 depend from amended claim 22, and therefore, incorporate all of the limitations of amended claim 22, it is respectfully submitted that Terry in view of Tighe fails to teach or suggest a method comprising “providing a multi-unit centralizer comprising a centralizer hub having a plurality of hub subunits...each having a longitudinal axis; providing [a] plurality of spacer lugs on said centralizer hub *by sliding at least one of said plurality of spacer lugs on each of said plurality of hub subunits along said longitudinal axis...*”, as set forth in amended claim 22, and therefore, defined by claims 23-26 as dependent therefrom.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Terry in view of Tighe fails to render claims 23-26 obvious within the contemplation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claims 23-26, as dependent from amended claim 22, is respectfully submitted.

Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Terry in view of Tighe as applied to claim 13 above, and further in view of Evans.

As claims 15 and 16 depend from amended claim 13, and therefore, include all of the limitations of amended claim 13, it is respectfully submitted that Terry in view of Tighe and further in view of Evans fails to teach or suggest a multi-unit centralizer comprising “an elongated centralizer hub having a longitudinal axis and including a plurality of hub subunits for removably

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engaging each other; a flange groove provided in each of said plurality of hub subunits...each of [a] plurality of spacer lugs having an attachment edge capable of engaging said centralizer hub *by sliding said attachment edge in said flange groove in a direction parallel to said longitudinal axis*", as set forth in amended claim 13, and therefore, defined by claims 15 and 16 as dependent therefrom.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Terry in view of Tighe and further in view of Evans fails to render claims 15 and 16 obvious within the contemplation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Reconsideration and allowance of claims 15 and 16, as dependent from amended claim 13, is therefore respectfully solicited.

Claims 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Terry in view of Evans as applied to claim 18 above, and further in view of Tighe.

As claims 20 and 21 depend from amended claim 18, and therefore, include all of the limitations of amended claim 18, it is respectfully submitted that Terry in view of Evans and further in view of Tighe fails to teach or suggest a multi-unit centralizer comprising "a centralizer hub including a plurality of hub subunits...a flange groove having at least one open end provided in each of said plurality of hub subunits; a plurality of spacer lugs slidably and removably engaging said centralizer hub *by insertion in said at least one open end of said flange groove...*", as set forth in amended claim 18, and therefore, defined by claims 20 and 21 as dependent from amended claim 18.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Terry in view of Evans and further in view of

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Tighe fails to render claims 20 and 21 obvious within the contemplation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Reconsideration and allowance of claims 20 and 21, as dependent from amended claim 18, is therefore respectfully solicited.

Claims 3-8, 10-12, 15, 16 and 18-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mundt in view of Evans.

It is respectfully submitted that Mundt in view of Evans fails to render claims 3-8, 10-12, 15, 16 and 18-21 obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as will be hereinafter set forth.

Mundt in view of Evans fails to teach invention of claims 3-8 and 10-12

As claims 3-8 and 10-12 depend from amended claim 1, and therefore, incorporate all of the limitations of amended claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that Mundt in view of Evans fails to teach or suggest a multi-unit centralizer comprising “a centralizer hub including a plurality of hub subunits...an elongated flange groove *having at least one open end* provided in each of said plurality of hub subunits; and at least one spacer lug slidably and removably engaging each of said plurality of hub subunits *by inserting said at least one spacer lug into said at least one open end and sliding said at least one spacer lug in said flange groove*”, as set forth in amended claim 1 and defined by claims 3-8 and 10-12 as dependent therefrom.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Mundt in view of Evans fails to render claims 3-8 and 10-12 obvious within the contemplation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Reconsideration and

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allowance of claims 3-8 and 10-12, as dependent from amended claim 1, is therefore respectfully solicited.

Mundt in view of Evans fails to teach invention of claims 15 and 16

As claims 15 and 16 depend from amended claim 13, and therefore, include all of the limitations of amended claim 13, it is respectfully submitted that Mundt in view of Evans fails to teach or suggest a multi-unit centralizer comprising “an elongated centralizer hub having a longitudinal axis and including a plurality of hub subunits for removably engaging each other; a flange groove provided in each of said plurality of hub subunits...each of [a] plurality of spacer lugs having an attachment edge capable of engaging said centralizer hub *by sliding said attachment edge in said flange groove in a direction parallel to said longitudinal axis*”, as set forth in amended claim 13, and therefore, defined by claims 15 and 16 as dependent therefrom.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Mundt in view of Evans fails to render claims 15 and 16 obvious within the contemplation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Reconsideration and allowance of claims 15 and 16, as dependent from amended claim 13, is therefore respectfully solicited.

Mundt in view of Evans fails to teach invention of claims 18-21

It is respectfully submitted that Mundt in view of Evans fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of amended claim 18, and therefore, claims 19-21 as dependent therefrom, since Mundt in view of Evans fails to teach or suggest a multi-unit centralizer comprising “a centralizer hub

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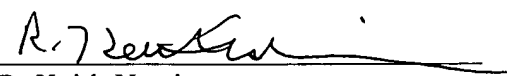
including a plurality of hub subunits...a flange groove having at least one open end provided in each of said plurality of hub subunits; a plurality of spacer lugs slidably and removably engaging said centralizer hub *by insertion in said at least one open end of said flange groove...*", as set forth in amended claim 18, and therefore, defined by claims 19-21 as dependent from amended claim 18.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Mundt in view of Evans fails to render claims 18-21 obvious within the contemplation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Reconsideration and allowance of claims 18-21 is therefore respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

Every effort has been made to amend applicant's claims in order to define his invention in the scope to which it is entitled. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-26 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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